

Minutes of Meeting of Monaghan County Council held in the Council Chamber, M-Tek Building, Armagh Rd, Knockaconny, Monaghan, on Monday 08 July 2024 at 10.00am

Chair: Cllr C. Bennett, Cathaoirleach

Present: Cllrs Aughey, Campbell, Carthy, Clerkin, S. Conlon, P. Conlon, P. Gibbons, Gilliland, Keelan, Maxwell, McAree, O’Hanlon, P. Treanor, S. Treanor, R Truell.

Apologies: Cllr Coyle

Via Teams: Cllr S. Flynn

Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive, Mr. C. Flynn, Ms. P. Monahan, Ms. C O’Hare, Directors of Services, Mr. G. McMahon, Ms. O. McConnon, A/Directors of Services, Ms. M. McGarvey, Meetings Administrator, Ms. M. Little, Staff Officer.

At the outset, the Cathaoirleach welcomed Cllr Thomas O’Reilly, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Mr. Paddy Grenham who attended as observers at Monaghan Co Co’s July meeting to the meeting gallery.

The Cathaoirleach also welcomed Ms. Adrienne Burns, IS Project Leader to the meeting to introduce members to the new microphone system in the Council Chamber.

Ms. Burns commenced by providing members with background information with regards to the new microphone system. She stated that Monaghan County Council had been successful in their application to secure funding from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage’s pilot scheme which was aimed at assisting hybrid meetings infrastructure. The funding enabled the IS Department to purchase new audio and visual equipment for the Council chamber. Ms. Burns concluded by providing members with a brief overview of the functionality of the new microphone system.

1. Confirmation of Minutes:

(i) Minutes of Council Meeting held on 04 June 2024

On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, it was agreed that the minutes of the Council meeting held on the 04 June 2024 be confirmed.

(ii) Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 June 2024

On the proposal of Cllr D. Maxwell, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland, it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 21 June 2024 be confirmed.

Urgent Business

The Cathaoirleach informed the members that she had received the following notice of urgent business as follows:

‘That this Council write to the Connections and Developer Services at Uisce Eireann, and also to the Water Finance Section’s Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Resolution Unit within the Department Of Housing and Local Government, seeking to immediately resolve the long-standing issue of rural residential area waste water treatment plants including but not exclusive to Oisinvale and Oisibrian, Emyvale County Monaghan for the purpose of enabling the Taking-in-Charge by Monaghan County Council. ‘

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon, it was agreed to enter 'into Committee' to discuss whether to accept the motions submitted as urgent business.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed to take the motion of urgent business at the end of the meeting.

On the proposal of Cllr. N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr. P. Treanor it was agreed that the Council revert to public session.

2. Correspondence

The following correspondence was circulated with the agenda for the meeting:

- Email received from Mr. Brendan Smith, T.D., regarding the response he received from Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., on Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability scheme, in respect of private houses.
- Email received from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Mr. Darragh O'Brien, T.D., regarding Housing Adaptation Grants for Older People and People with a Disability scheme, in respect of private houses.
- Letter from the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., regarding the LEADER programme.
- Letter from the Head of Service, Primary Care, HSE, Ms. Mandy Doyle, regarding the lack of GP, dental and orthodontic services in Monaghan town.
- Acknowledgement email received from the Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Senator Pippa Hackett, regarding ash dieback.
- Acknowledgement email received from the Office of the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Mr. Thomas Byrne, T.D., regarding St. Tiarnach's Park, Clones.

Additional Correspondence

2.1 The following additional correspondence which had been received after the agenda had issued was also circulated:

- Acknowledgement email from the Private Secretary to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Jack Chambers, T.D., regarding reducing the VAT rate for the hospitality sector.
- Email from the Minister For Transport, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., regarding salting of roads.
- Letter from Stream BioEnergy regarding a proposed biogas plant site.

Proposals arising out of correspondence:

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr C. Bennett, it was agreed that this Council, rewrites to the HSE requesting that extra staff are employed immediately to deal with the long delays that are occurring whereby medical card holders are having difficulty in accessing dental services.

On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr P. Treanor, it was agreed that this Council, rewrites to the Minister for Finance, Mr. Jack Chambers, T.D., reiterating the previous request to reduce the VAT rate for pubs and restaurants from 23% to 17%.

The members noted the correspondence received from Stream BioEnergy and agreed to receive a presentation from them at a later date.

3. To receive a presentation on Section 179A and the implications for Housing

Mr. L. MacCinna, Senior Executive Engineer, Housing, provided members with an update on new legislation which had been enacted on 08 March 2023 by Minister Darragh O'Brien under Section 179A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2023, to accelerate the construction of social housing. He stated that Section 179A allows an exemption to the Part 8 planning process for local authorities once the following conditions are met:

- The housing development must fall within the definition as set out in the legislation;
- The housing development must be carried out by, on behalf or, or jointly or in partnership with a local authority;
- The housing development must not materially contravene the development plan or local area plan for that development;
- The housing development is in accordance with the strategy included in the development plan for the area;
- No assessment is required under the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive or the Habitats Directive;
- The land must be owned by the local authority or a state authority, zoned for residential use and has access or can be connected to necessary facilities and infrastructure; and
- the work must commence on or before 31 December 2024.

Mr. MacCinna advised the members that Monaghan County Council have two social housing developments with funding approval that fall under the Section 179A legislation - Slí Loráin, Latlorcan, Monaghan which consists of 51 social houses and Slí NaCoille, Mullaghmart, Monaghan which consists of 21 social houses. He highlighted that the key difference between Section 179A and Part VIII legislation would be that these types of social housing developments would not be brought before the elected members for approval, provided that the relevant conditions had been met. Mr. MacCinna emphasised the strong working relationship between the elected members and the executive and highlighted that the main benefit of this new legislation would be a reduction in the amount of time required to complete the planning process.

Mr. MacCinna, Mr. R. Burns, Chief Executive and Ms. O. McConnon, A/Director of Services, responded to members queries.

Ms. O. McConnon advised the members that a detailed presentation on housing delivery schemes would be scheduled for the September County Council meeting.

The Cathaoirleach and members thanked Mr. MacCinna for his presentation.

4. To consider Heritage Week Grant Scheme recommendations 2024

The members considered the report from Ms. K. Ward, Heritage Officer recommending the allocation of funding under the Heritage Week Grant Scheme 2024. Ms. Ward responded to members queries.

On the proposal of Cllr C. Carthy, seconded by Cllr D. Maxwell, it was agreed that the Council approve the allocation of funding for the following projects under the Heritage Week Grant Scheme 2024:

#	Name of Group	MD	Project Description	Grant Awarded
1	Blayney Blades Women's Group	Carrick/Blayney	Guided bus tour along the Kavanagh Trail in Inniskeen as well as the Patrick Kavanagh Centre Experience which includes highlights such as the Kavanagh Homestead, Billy Brennans Barn and the Poetry Jukebox by the River Fane.	€ 1,000.00
2	Mullan Village Tidy Towns & Comm Develop	Monaghan	A series of art classes to for Children and parents to create pieces inspired by Mullan Village	€ 500.00
3	Donagh Parish Body - St Salvator's, Church of Ireland	Monaghan	Two talks will be given in St Salvator's Church by the Rev'd Tim Irvine conjunction with the tours being organised by the Castle Leslie estate's walled gardens.	€ 100.00
4	Clones Community Forum	Ballybay/Clones	Host a daily walking tour from 11-12.30pm Mon-Fri visiting and learning about some of the main historic sites that are part of Clones. Host a daily Genealogy Workshop Mon - Fri 2-4pm.	€ 1,000.00
5	Kilmore & Drumsnatt Heritage Society	Ballybay/Clones	Field trip to the heritage town of Clones	€ 600.00
6	Doohamlet Bluebells	Ballybay/Clones	Heritage & Habitat Guided nature walk (celebrating Biodiversity & cultural heritage)	€ 230.00
7	Scotstown- Seán Corr	Monaghan	A Century of Scotstown: Connecting with a village history through Valuation records, 1860-1960 - Talk	€345 -
8	St Muadain's Church, Errigal Truagh, Select vestry	Monaghan	The Diaspora of Errigal Truagh & Errigal Shanco - Part II- Talk	€ 100.00
9	St Sillian's Tyholland	Monaghan	Presentation of research by archivist Bridget Clesham	€ 250.00
10	Cornagilta School Heritage Centre	Monaghan	Music & Storytelling, talk on cures, Club for elderly, Irish dancing	€ 800.00
11	Magheracloone ICA	Carrick/Blayney	Visit to new County Museum and Mullan Village	€ 300.00
12	Essexford Heritage Group	Carrick/Blayney	Blacksmith Forge opening and horse being shod. A video will be recorded and later used to animate the site for visitors	€600 -
13	Aughnamullen Church Vestry	Ballybay/Clones	Cross community musical celebration of culture and heritage and tribute to Billy Fox	€ 700.00
	TOTAL			€6,525

5. To consider the Draft Strategic Policy Scheme 2024-2029

Ms. M. McGarvey, A/Senior Executive Officer referred to the Draft Strategic Policy Scheme 2024-2029 circulated with the agenda. She advised that following the Local Government Elections the Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach and Chairs of the SPCs are required to consider the Draft SPC Scheme for 2024-2029. She highlighted that the Draft SPC Scheme outlines the role of the SPC, how it links with the CPG and the flows between the SPC and the full Council. In relation to the proposed structure and configuration of the SPC's, Ms. McGarvey advised that for 2024-2029 the following five SPCs are proposed with 12 Members on each committee (6 Sectoral Representatives and 6 County Council Members):

- (i) SPC for Housing
- (ii) SPC for Transport
- (iii) SPC for Economic Development and Enterprise
- (iv) SPC for Environment and Climate Change
- (v) SPC for Tourism, Rural & Community Development and Cultural Services

Ms. McGarvey stated that following members consideration of the Draft SPC Scheme 2024-2029 at the Council meeting today, the Scheme would be forwarded to the Public Participation Network and to appropriate key national stakeholders for their consideration. Furthermore, a notice that the Council has considered the Draft SPC Scheme 2024-2029 and issued for public consultation will be published in the Northern Standard this week and on the Council's social media platforms. The closing date for receipt of submissions will be 16 August 2024. Following the consultation period the Chief Executive, Cathaoirleach and five SPC Chairs will review all submissions and make amendments as deemed appropriate. It is proposed that the Revised Draft SPC Scheme 2024-2029 would be presented to the full Council in September. Following adoption of the proposed SPC Scheme 2024-2029, letters will be issued to the PPN and key stakeholders seeking nominations for sectoral representatives. In addition, nominations for County Council Representatives on each SPC will also be sought at the same time.

On the proposal of Cllr P. Treanor, seconded by Cllr S. Conlon it was agreed that the Council approve the Draft Strategic Policy Scheme 2024-2029 and commence the public consultation process.

6. To consider recommendations and minutes from Corporate Policy Group

The members noted the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 04 July 2024, which had been circulated.

On the proposal of Cllr R. Aughey, seconded by Cllr C. Bennett, it was agreed that the minutes of the Corporate Policy Group meeting held on 04 July 2024 and the recommendations contained therein be approved.

7. To receive Management Report – June 2024

The Chief Executive introduced the Management Report for June 2024 which had been circulated with the agenda. He highlighted the extensive level of work that had been carried

out by the new Town Regeneration Unit across the County. He highlighted that in addition to work that had been carried out in each of the five main towns in the County, the regeneration team were also working on villages and rural areas on issues such as vacant properties and dereliction. He added that Monaghan County Council were on track to exceed targets set by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under CPO Activation Programme for 2024 bringing vacant and derelict properties into use. He thanked Mr. C. Flynn, Mr. K. McNally, the Town Regeneration team and the members for their work and cooperation.

Mr. R. Burns advised the members that the Town Regeneration Unit would provide a detailed presentation to the members at a future Council meeting.

In response to a query regarding the Ukrainian response, Mr. G. McMahon, A/Director of Services advised that the Integration Team is established and operational. He advised that he would liaise with Ms. M. McGarvey regarding facilitating a presentation from the Integration team at a future council meeting.

Mr. R. Burns confirmed that any updates regarding the proposed leisure centre in Carrickmacross or the Sliagh Beagh Masterplan would be included in future management reports.

The Chief Executive and Directors of Services responded to queries from the elected members.

The members noted the Management Report for June 2024 which had been circulated with the agenda.

8. To receive reports from Members attending Conferences/Training events.

The members noted the reports from Cllr P Connolly and Cllr S. Conlon, in relation to their attendance at the following Conference/Training events:

- LAMA, Spring Seminar, 19th-21st January Abbey Hotel, Donegal Town, Co. Donegal
- AILG – Elected Members Briefing, 27th January, Greenhills Conference and Leisure Centre, Limerick
- Celtic Conferences – Irish Housing Crisis, 2nd-4th February 2024, Clonakilty, Co. Cork
- Association of Irish Regions, Regions in Focus Seminar, 7-8th February 2024, Woodlands Hotel, Co. Limerick
- AILG, Annual Conference 2024, 14th-15th February, Arklow Bay Hotel, Co. Wicklow
- AILG, Local Elections 2024, 21st March 2024, Hotel Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny

9. Business submitted by Chief Executive

The Chief Executive informed the members that there were no matters for consideration under this item.

10. Matters arising out of the minutes of the Council meeting held on 04 June 2024

On the proposal of Cllr C. Bennett, seconded by Cllr David Maxwell it was agreed that the Council write to the Canadian Ambassador, Ms. Nancy Smyth who is concluding her tenure at the end of the summer, to thank her for her contributions and to wish her well in her future endeavors.

On the proposal of PJ O Hanlon seconded by Cllr. A Campbell it was agreed that this Council write to Dr. Fiona McGrath, Chief Executive, CMETB in relation to recent correspondence received regarding elected members nominations to the Board of CMETB.

11. To receive update on N2 National Primary Road Schemes

Mr. G. McMahon, A/Director of Services provided the members with background information in relation to the N2 National Primary Road Schemes:

Clontibret – Border Road Scheme

- The Clontibret to the border road scheme had been first developed in the 1990s but was suspended in the mid-2000s to allow for a larger project to tie in with the NI border.
- The scheme recommenced in 2008, however, was suspended again in 2012 due to the economic downturn.
- The project will see the upgrade of 28km of the N2 Dublin to Derry Road to a dual carriageway.
- The objectives of the scheme are to improve road safety, enhance north south regional connectivity and provide journey time certainty for cross-border traffic.
- The project will bypass Emyvale, urban areas of Monaghan Town and Corracrin, allowing for public realm and active travel within the urban areas.
- The project is listed in the National Development Plan and also an objective within the Northern and Western Regional Assembly's Spatial & Economic Strategy for planning and construction by 2032.
- It will provide investment of over €300m in road transport in the border region.
- The scheme will complement the proposed upgrade of 85km of the road network in Northern Ireland – The A5 Western Transport Corridor from Aughnacloy to Derry.
- N2 Clontibret – Border Road Scheme commenced in 2018 and the new preferred route corridor was published in early 2021.
- In 2021, the project entered phase 3 of the design process, however as no funding allocation was received in 2022 the design process was suspended.
- In 2023, an application for EU Funding through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) was successful and this allowed design works to recommence.
- The current phase of the design seeks to provide the detailed road alignment and junction layouts which will allow the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (which will be the formal planning approval document) to be developed for submission to an Bórd Pleanála.

Ardee – Castleblayney Road Scheme

- Originally the Ardee - Castleblayney Road Scheme was developed in parallel with the Clontibret to the Border Road Scheme with the same design consultants.
- In 2022, the detailed road alignment design had been completed and consultation with the relevant landowners had taken place, however, in 2023 the project was suspended as funding was restricted to provide only for expenditure that was 'contract committed'.
- The Ardee – Castleblayney Road Scheme did not receive any funding allocation in 2024 and remains suspended.

12. To receive update on North/South Interconnector project

Mr. A. Hughes, Senior Planner joined the meeting to provide an update from the Planning Authority in respect of two specific queries relating to the North South Interconnector in which legal opinion had been sought:

1. The expiry of the planning permission
2. The Authority of the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) to engage in compliance matters.

Mr. Hughes provided the members with the following synopsis of the legal opinion from Senior Counsel in relation to both queries:

- **Expiry of Planning Permission**

The life of a 'normal' planning permission is 5 years. This period applies to planning permissions granted under Part III or Part XXI of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The 'approval' that was granted for the North South interconnector was granted under s.182A of the Act, which does not come under Part III or Part XXI. Consequently, the period of 5 years does not apply to the North South interconnector approval, and it is Counsel opinion that there is no limitation (*in terms of an appropriate period*) in respect of this 'approval' - therefore in effect the approval has an indefinite duration.

- **The authority of the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) to engage in compliance matters.**

Conditions numbers 1,4,5,6 and 7 of the Boards decision refers to the 'undertaker' being required to do certain things – in terms of compliance. It is Counsel opinion that the role of ESB Networks would fall within the definition (i.e. 'undertaker'), and that the Council does have jurisdiction to engage with ESB Networks in terms of considering and determining compliance submissions under the conditions attached to the Board Order. The Bord had considered and determined the application for the interconnector, as was their statutory function. Conditions attached to the approval required certain matters to be agreed with the Planning Authority and there is an obligation on The Planning Authority to participate in the process of compliance and agree matters. Mr. A. Hughes assured members that this would be carried out in a diligent manner.

On the proposal of Cllr C. Bennett, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan it was agreed that this Council writes to the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr. Eamon Ryan, T.D., to ascertain how much money has been spent by Government on trying to enforce the overgrounding of the North-South Interconnector.

On the proposal of Cllr N. Keelan, seconded by Cllr S. Flynn it was agreed that this Council reaffirms its commitment to the undergrounding of the North South Interconnector (NSI) and continued support for the local communities affected and their representative organisations in this endeavour.

On the proposal of Cllr PJ O'Hanlon, seconded by Cllr S. Gilliland it was agreed that this Council calls on Minister Heather Humphries, our four local TD's, two Senators and Minister for Infrastructure of the Northern Ireland Executive, Mr. John O'Dowd requesting a meeting with Monaghan County Council members in relation to the undergrounding of the North-South Interconnector.

13. To receive update on the Ulster Canal project

Cllr. P. Treanor commended all those involved in the organisation of the formal opening of the Ulster Canal Marina in Clones which took place on 19 June 2024 and had been well received. Furthermore, he commended all those involved in bringing the excellent amenity to the local region. He stated that whilst it is welcome to see watersports activities taking place at the facility it is important that users exercise caution with regards to water safety.

14. Questions and Replies

Cllr C. Bennett asked:

1. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with an update on where and when new local authority houses are being planned for construction in County Monaghan.

Reply:

There are currently 270 units in the delivery pipeline between now and 2026. This does not include units delivered so far this year. Housing Section continues to try and develop further projects over this period.

Project Name	Total Number of Social Units		Approved Housing Body	Project Status	Projected date for delivery
	Expected	Part V			
Hall Street, Ballybay	6		North and East	On-site	30/06/2024
Coill an Ri (Part 2) Carrickmacross	9			On-site	15/07/2024
Coill an Ri (Part 2) Carrickmacross	4			On-site	31/07/2024
Hall Street, Ballybay	1		North and East	On-site	31/07/2024
Knockcarrick, Annyalla	8			On-site	31/08/2024
Coill an Ri (Part 2) Carrickmacross	7			On-site	30/09/2024
Kilnacloy, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan	8		Túath Housing Association Ltd	On-site	30/09/2024
Knockcarrick, Annyalla	10			On-site	31/10/2024
Magheross, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan	6		Túath Housing Association Ltd	On-site	31/10/2024
Gleann Droimnín, Carrickmacross		4		On-site	31/10/2024
Magheross, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan	6		Túath Housing Association Ltd	On-site	06/12/2024
Coill an Ri (Part 2) Carrickmacross	10			On-site	31/12/2024
Kilnacloy, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan	6	2	Túath Housing Association Ltd	On-site	31/12/2024
Station View, Monaghan	2			Not Started	31/12/2024
10 & 12 Cara Street, Clones	7			Stage 1 Approved	01/04/2025
Magheross, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan	14		Túath Housing Association Ltd	On-site	30/11/2025
Cois Abhainn, Ballinode	22			Not Started	31/12/2025
Macartan View Latlorcan (Aghnasedagh) Monaghan	20		Túath Housing Association Ltd	Not Started	31/12/2025
Slí NaCoille, Monaghan	21			Stage 1 Approved	31/01/2026
Slí Lorcaín	50			Stage 1 Approved	31/01/2026
7 Apartments Old Cross Square, Mon	7			Stage 1 Approved	01/04/2026
Old Fire Station, Castleblayney	19		NEHA	Stage 1 Approved	01/04/2026
Macartan View Latlorcan (Aghnasedagh) Monaghan	17	4	Túath Housing Association Ltd	Not Started	30/06/2026
Total	260	10			

2. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with a list of derelict properties that have been acquired or are due to be acquired in County Monaghan. Will these properties be available to purchase by the public.

Reply: Monaghan County Council's Town Regeneration Office are implementing a range of measures to address vacancy and dereliction across the County including:

Derelict Sites Register

Countywide Derelict Sites survey work is ongoing across the 3 Municipal Districts, as follows:

Monaghan Municipal District:

- 91 Initial properties identified

- Mix of Vacant/Derelict Commercial – Residential Properties
- 21 no. Section 8(2) notices served
- 90 no. initially identified in Monaghan
- 1 no. identified in Scotstown
- 1 no. properties added to the Derelict Site Register in 2024 to date

Ballybay Clones Municipal District:

- 144 properties identified
- Mix of Vacant/Derelict Commercial – Residential Properties
- 39 no. Section 8(2) notices served
- 65 no. initially identified in Clones
- 71 no. initially identified in Ballybay
- 3 no. identified in Smithborough
- 5 no. identified in Newbliss
- 5 no. properties added to the Derelict Site Register in 2024 to date

Carrickmacross / Castleblayney Municipal District:

- 121 Initial properties identified
- Mix of Vacant/Derelict Commercial – Residential Properties
- 29 no. Section 8(2) notices served
- 68 no. initially identified in Castleblayney
- 51 no. initially identified in Carrickmacross
- 2 no. identified in Oram

Urban Regeneration Development Fund

€1.5 million is committed under the URDF Call 3 programme to purchase / activate approved derelict properties within Monaghan Town. There are currently 22 specific properties included in the programme. Following engagement with the owners, a number of these properties have been, or are due to be offered for sale on the open market over the coming months. Where owners fail to address the vacancy and dereliction issues on their property, within a reasonable timeframe, the Town Regeneration Office will commence the compulsory acquisition process. Of the initial 22 properties on the programme:

- 2 no. are back in use as commercial business,
- 17 no. Section 8(2) notices have been served under the Derelict Sites Act.
- 2 additional properties have been entered on the Derelict Sites Register
- CPO proceedings have commenced on 1 property.

CPO Activation Programme

List of properties where CPO proceedings have already commenced:

- 13 Old Cross Square Monaghan
- Derryveagh, Carrickroe
- Murdock Trust, Coolshannagh Monaghan
- 15 Dublin Street, Monaghan
- Deerings, Main Street, Newbliss
- Keatings - Main Street, Newbliss
- Laverty's – Market Square, Castleblayney

Priority Properties where CPO proceedings will commence in 2024 include:

- Breffni House, Carrickmacross
- 85 Main Street, Ballybay
- Former Public House, Muckno Street, Castleblayney

- Dwelling on Newtownbutler Road, Clones
 - 1 Oakview Clones
3. Can Monaghan Council provide me with their plans for serviced sites in town and villages in County Monaghan.
Reply: Housing Section intends bringing some serviced sites under the Croí Conaithe Ready to Build scheme to the market in Q4 2024. The sites will be available in Monaghan Town and Scotshouse.
4. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with a list of playparks that have disability access under their control and any plans for new playparks with disability access.
Reply: It is not something we have at the moment; however we do intend to work with the MD's to collate this information and will aim to have this completed over the coming months.
5. In relation to traffic's calming measures in our villages. Can Monaghan County Council please provide me with a plan to ensure that each village is made safer with proper traffic calming controls on entry and exit.
Reply: A new Traffic Calming policy was adopted by the council in March of this year. This policy provides guidance and a standardised procedure for implementing traffic calming measures within County Monaghan.

The Road section will work with the 3 MDs to develop new traffic calming schemes.

Clr A. Campbell asked:

6. With the recent funding announcement by Minister Humphries of up 11 million euro for the restoration of the Market House in Castleblayney.
- (A) Has the design consultants finalised the design of this project?
 - (B) What is the update on the Fire Safety and Disabled Access Certificate?
 - (C) What is the update on the submission of the Preliminary Business Case and the Project Brief and Procurement Strategy?
 - (D) When is it hoped to have this project go to tender?
- Reply:**
- (A) **The detailed designs for the project are substantially complete and will be finalised following approval of the Fire Safety and Disabled Access Certificates for the Market House building.**
 - (B) **There are ongoing consultations between Design Consultants and Fire & Building Control Department regarding the Fire Safety and Disabled Access Certificates for the project. It is expected that formal applications for both certificates will be submitted before the end of July.**
 - (C) **The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) recently confirmed that the project has entered the verification and due diligence phase. The Council submitted verification information as requested by the DRCD in late June and this is currently under review by department officials. The Council will have to await further correspondence from the Department indicating the next steps in the progression of project stage approvals and any relevant submissions that may have to be addressed.**
 - (D) **Subject to Departmental approvals of relevant project stages and compliance with funding conditions, it is expected that tenders for the project will be sought in Q4 2024.**
7. What is the current update on the development planned for the site of the old fire station in the commons, Castleblayney?
Reply: Designers have been appointed, the design and detailing are underway with a view for

having a planning pack together within the next 6 weeks for circulation to the relevant departments in the County Council for comment.

8. What is the update on the Water Quality in Lough Muckno?

Reply: The monitoring phase of the Lough Muckno Road to Recovery Project ended in December 2023. The consultant is currently finalising the report and we expect to receive it at the end of July. Staff from Environment Section and the consultant working on the project presented the initial findings to the Climate & Environment SPC on the 29th of April 2024.

The initial findings from the lake coring and lake monitoring suggest an internal loading of phosphorus from the lake sediment which suggests that the recovery of Lough Muckno will take decades even if all current inputs of phosphorus from the catchment area were ceased.

The data from the assessment of the inputting tributaries to Lough Muckno gathered as part of the Road to Recovery project is currently being used to inform and focus the Environment Section work plans. The inputting load assessment from the project indicates that the County Water and Gentle Owens River Catchment areas are contributing the highest loads to the Lough. Investigative assessment and farm inspections having been ongoing in the Gentle Owens River since 2023 and work is due to commence in the County Water River catchment in the coming weeks.

Although Lough Muckno is not a designated bathing water and Monaghan County Council is therefore not obliged to monitor such waters, over the summer months samples will be taken at 3 locations on Lough Muckno and analysed for the bathing water parameters. These samples will be taken on a monthly basis from June to September and analysed for the bathing water parameters.

Samples will be taken at the following locations:

- 1) The Lough Muckno bathing area
- 2) The Castleblayney OEC/water sports area and
- 3) Black Island Point.

If sample results are not within the permissible limits for the bacteriological parameters, an advice not to swim notice will be erected on site and posted on the councils' social media.

Samples were taken on the 27th of June 2024, and results show that the water was compliant with bathing water standards, with water quality deemed to be in the 'excellent' category in each of the three sample locations.

9. With regard to the Hope Castle and Annex in Castleblayney.

- (A) When is expected to have the consultant appointed to begin work on the Masterplan and the Development Framework?
- (B) What plans are in place for public consultation with the consultants?
- (C) What timeframe is it hoped that work will be complete?
- (D) When will the contractor start to clear out and remove all existing internal materials/debris from both the Hope Castle and the Annex building?

Reply:

- (A) **Tenders for the Masterplan were received on the 24th June. The 4 no. tenders received will now be assessed with a view to completing the tender assessment and contract award in August.**
- (B) **The Contract provides for significant public engagement / consultation in the preparation of the Masterplan.**
- (C) **Mid 2025**
- (D) **The period for submission of tenders for clear out and remove all existing internal materials/debris from the Hope Castle and Annex buildings closed on 18th June 2024. The tender evaluation process is currently ongoing, and it is expected that the**

preferred tenderer will be identified in late July. Having regard to compliance with relevant procurement procedures and timelines, it is expected that the contract works will commence in late Q3 2024.

10. What is the update on the Affordable Housing Survey for County Monaghan?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is currently running an Affordable Purchase survey to enable potential applicants register their interest in an Affordable Housing Scheme in Monaghan Town. The Survey is live on Monaghan County Council website, social media platforms and on Daft.ie from 21st June – 5th July 2024.

Subject to interest, the Council proposes to make the newly built homes available in Monaghan Town at a reduced price for first-time and other eligible buyers, who cannot afford to purchase the home at its open market value, with a maximum mortgage and 10% deposit.

Cllr S. Flynn asked:

11. Can Monaghan County Council please provide an update on the plan for affordable and social housing in County Monaghan to include disabled accessible properties.

Reply: There are currently 270 units in the delivery pipeline between now and 2026. This does not include units delivered so far this year. Housing Section continues to try and develop further projects over this period. In the Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan, it is an objective to have 20% of housing delivery suitable for persons with a disability i.e. ground - floor accommodation. Monaghan County Council is currently running an Affordable Purchase survey to enable potential applicants register their interest in an Affordable Housing Scheme in Monaghan Town. The Survey is live on Monaghan County Council website, social media platforms and on Daft.ie from 21st June – 5th July 2024. Subject to interest, the Council proposes to make the newly built homes available in Monaghan Town at a reduced price for first-time and other eligible buyers, who cannot afford to purchase the home at its open market value, with a maximum mortgage and 10% deposit.

Project Name	Total Number of Social Units		Approved Housing Body	Project Status	Projected date for delivery
	Expected	Part V			
Hall Street, Ballybay	6		North and East	On-site	30/06/2024
Coill an Ri (Part 2) Carrickmacross	9			On-site	15/07/2024
Coill an Ri (Part 2) Carrickmacross	4			On-site	31/07/2024
Hall Street, Ballybay	1		North and East	On-site	31/07/2024
Knockcarrick, Annyalla	8			On-site	31/08/2024
Coill an Ri (Part 2) Carrickmacross	7			On-site	30/09/2024
Kilnacloy, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan	8		Túath Housing Association Ltd	On-site	30/09/2024
Knockcarrick, Annyalla	10			On-site	31/10/2024
Magheross, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan	6		Túath Housing Association Ltd	On-site	31/10/2024
Gleann Droimnin, Carrickmacross		4		On-site	31/10/2024
Magheross, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan	6		Túath Housing Association Ltd	On-site	06/12/2024
Coill an Ri (Part 2) Carrickmacross	10			On-site	31/12/2024
Kilnacloy, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan	6	2	Túath Housing Association Ltd	On-site	31/12/2024
Station View, Monaghan	2			Not Started	31/12/2024
10 & 12 Cara Street, Clones	7			Stage 1 Approved	01/04/2025
Magheross, Carrickmacross, Co Monaghan	14		Túath Housing Association Ltd	On-site	30/11/2025
Cois Abhainn, Ballinode	22			Not Started	31/12/2025
Macartan View Latlorcan (Aghnasedagh) Monaghan	20		Túath Housing Association Ltd	Not Started	31/12/2025
Slí NaCoille, Monaghan	21			Stage 1 Approved	31/01/2026
Slí Lorcaín	50			Stage 1 Approved	31/01/2026
7 Apartments Old Cross Square, Mon	7			Stage 1 Approved	01/04/2026
Old Fire Station, Castleblayney	19		NEHA	Stage 1 Approved	01/04/2026
Macartan View Latlorcan (Aghnasedagh) Monaghan	17	4	Túath Housing Association Ltd	Not Started	30/06/2026
Total	260	10			

12. Can Monaghan County Council please provide a detailed list of roads on the future road maintenance & surface dressing programme.

Reply: The surface dressing programme is renewed annually by each of the Municipal Districts. The following is the draft list of roads on the RI programme for each MD over the next 3 years:

<u>MD</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>
Monaghan MD	R186-3 R213-1 R162 R214-2 LP1412 LP2000 LT50502 LT52102 LT14021 LT54516	R187-1 R937 LT33303 LS7540 LT11711 LP1122 LS7522 LT55003	R185-1 R162-1 162-1 LP3510 LP1220 LP1420 LS5513 LT20201 LT51523
Ballybay/Clones MD	R212 R190 LP3401 LS7330 LP2232/3 LT71011	R183 R188 LS6272 LT22414 LT39002 LT41133 LS7101/7100	R183 R162 LT61001 L6011 LT71113 LT40051 LT23314
Castleblayney/Carrickmmacross MD	R181-3 R179-9 L4911 L8611 L35012 L81002 L46012 L49023	R182-3 L4040 L87601 L8110 L4400 L89031	R178-7 L4041 L4102 L4930 L4931 L8602 L8500 LT32101

13. Can Monaghan County Council please provide a list of traffic calming measures scheduled for all villages and towns in the County.

Reply: A new Traffic Calming policy was adopted by the council in March of this year.

The aims of the policy are to:

- Incorporate traffic-calming measures at the planning and design stage of all new schemes.
- Introduction of an appraisal system for traffic calming on existing public roads.
- Introduction of a prioritising scheme selection system.
- Set up a shared centralised database between the Three MDs and the Roads Section to:
 - I. hold all requests for traffic calming measures from the public and elected members,
 - II. act as a knowledge share database.

MDs are currently updating their database of proposed traffic calming schemes.

14. Can Monaghan County Council please provide an update on tourism development projects for the County.

Reply: The following projects are currently being progressed by the Tourism Unit:
Church Square Performance Area, Monaghan

Development of multi-purpose performance area in front of the Courthouse – end July Completion.

Rossmore Playpark Extension

Extension of existing playpark with equipment suitable for older children- November completion.

Black Island ORIS Project

Recreational enhancements on Black Island – Q2 2025 completion.

Dartrey Forest

Recreational enhancements at Dartrey Forest – contractor on site – November completion.

Dromore River Blueway Development

Funding secured. Preparing An Bord Pleanala planning application.

Sliabh Beagh Eco-Tourism Development

Currently seeking funding for developments.

15. Can Monaghan County Council please provide a plan for attracting and supporting new and existing small businesses in county Monaghan thereby further creating employment opportunities and the retention of same.

Reply: The LEO Development Plan 2021-2024 provides the framework for supporting new and existing small businesses in County Monaghan thereby further creating employment opportunities and the retention of same. The plan sets out the strategic priorities which include Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Digitalisation, Green / Sustainability, Innovation, Exporting / Internationalisation and Networks and Clustering.

LEO Monaghan has an array of products and services to support SME's employing up to 50 staff and across all sectors, under the aforementioned strategic objectives which is aligned to SME policy and funded by Department of Enterprise Trade & Employment.

Under Entrepreneurship LEO Monaghan have the following supports:

- **Start Your Own Business Programmes.**
- **Concept to Commercialisation programme to harness opportunity for spinouts, sub-supply agri- tech, green -tech ect.**
- **Collaboration with the Local Authority Age Friendly programme.**
- **Collaboration with Enterprise Ireland, Regional LEO's and DKIT to create a pipeline for High Potential Strat Ups.**
- **LEO grant investment to support the establishment and expansion of manufacturing and international traded services through Priming and Business Expansion grants.**

Regarding Competitiveness & Digitalisation we promote:

- **Lean for Micro which is open to Retail, Hospitality, Local Traded services, and all manufacturing sectors.**
- **Deliver client focused, needs based, management development programmes targeted at LEO portfolio clients e.g. ESG Cluster Programme.**
- **Deliver client focused, needs based, management development programmes targeted at LEO Trading Online Voucher recipients e.g. eQualiser Programme.**
- **Maximise LEO mentoring programmes to increase ambition & capabilities.**
- **Increase LEO one-to-one client engagement to identify export ready clients.**
- **Provide support and guidance to accelerate digital usage through 'Digital Start'.**
- **Deliver procurement best practice and supply chain management supports and expertise via mentoring and/or dedicated programmes e.g. Winning Tender programme.**

- Hold conferences on Digital within businesses to drive innovation and efficiencies.
- Under Green & Sustainability supports we have the following:
- Go Green network series to support businesses as they transition to low carbon entities.
 - Green Business free programme which gives a measurement of the existing carbon footprint/per business.
 - Energy Efficiency Grant to support businesses through capital investment in the efforts to decarbonise.
 - Promote Remote Working through a comprehensive marketing campaign to assist the stimulation of balanced regional and local development of remote hubs in the County.
 - Assess companies operating in Green sector for special attention and development focus.
 - Identify appropriate support offering for businesses interested in circular economy opportunities and held an event on this in conjunction with CIRCULEIRE during March 2024.

In terms of Innovation the LEO:

- Help clients engage in innovation and research through making them aware of government supports to support innovation such as the RD & I Innovation Fund.
- Use case studies to demonstrate to clients the benefits of R&D/Innovation.
- Promote adoption of digital technology to increase efficiencies and streamline production/service processes within businesses.
- Assist clients make applications for Innovation Vouchers, Agile, RDI Grants.

Another area which we focus on is Exporting and we do this through the following mechanisms:

- Implement the LEO Export Advisor support initiative.
- Promote and deliver export development engagements to encourage client companies to explore and or/ to expand the market/products to which they export.
- Work closely with Enterprise Ireland regional reps to develop export pathways for client companies.
- Assist businesses to avail of TAME grant.
- Regularly review and assess client portfolio with state agencies to identify export markets and opportunities.
- Work with EI to integrate LEO export supports.

Networks and Clustering LEO Monaghan is committed to developing and supporting a variety of networks and clusters which include:

- Monaghan Women in Business
- NE Lean Network
- Monaghan Has It
- Carrickmacross Chamber of Commerce
- Castleblayney Regeneration
- Enterprise European Network
- ESG Cluster
- Creative Monaghan

Cllr S. Conlon asked:

16. With regard to procurement of goods and services acquired by Monaghan County Council over the last three years, what monetary value, and percentage of total spend, has been paid to providers from outside of our State's jurisdiction?

Reply: The table below provides a detailed summary of all contracts over €25,000 awarded by MCC,(Model Publication Scheme), for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Expenditure Summary							
Contract Award							
(Extract from Model Publication Scheme)							
Year	General Services	Goods	Works	Works Related Services	Total No of Contracts Awarded	Total Value of Awards	
2021	€615,344	€2,100,650	€10,071,746	€1,821,181	66	€14,608,923	
2022	€4,279,474	€2,561,004	€18,832,294	€1,595,779	89	€27,268,552	
2023	€1,615,436	€3,643,482	€20,677,176	€463,250	66	€26,399,344	
Payments to Contractors & Suppliers outside Republic of Ireland							
Year	General Services	Goods	Works	Works Related Services	Total No of Contracts Awarded	Total Value of Awards	
2021	€134,317	€707,418	€1,901,830	€31,124	13	€2,774,689	19%
2022	€771,286	€493,002	€14,912,260	€362,974	27	€16,539,523	61%
2023	€65,700	€631,355	€8,120,603	€137,630	10	€8,955,288	34%

17. Considering that quality assurance standards differ from goods and materials sourced within Ireland and the EU to those sourced in Britain, due to the relaxation of regulations that occurred following Brexit, what assurances do Monaghan County Council have that products used by providers from outside the EU for local projects, especially in commercial and residential development, are compliant in adhering to EU quality assurance standards?

Reply: All tender documents require works and material to be to an Irish or EU standards.

18. And in relation to construction materials used for commercial and residential development, is consideration given in the tendering process that materials sourced from across the border are at variance to materials sourced from within this State which results in County Monaghan based building supply providers being disenfranchised twice when spare parts and materials are required for maintenance / repair works, and the required replacement parts have to be purchased in the north?

Reply: All tender documents require works and material to be to an Irish or EU standards.

19. Will the council please provide an update in relation to plans for safety measures on the N2 at Emyvale village where several incidents have occurred in recent years. One such incident resulted in the demolition of a dwelling house after a lorry crashed into it for the second time.

Reply: Tenders for the Procurement of Consultants to Design the Road Safety Improvement Scheme on the N2 Emyvale were advertised on 26th April 2024 with a closing date of 31st May 2024. 5 No. Tenders were received by the closing date. These tenders have been assessed and the Tender Assessment Report will be issued to TII this week for approval. Once approval to proceed has been received from TII, Monaghan County Council will issue the Letters of Intent to the successful tenderer.

20. Can the council please provide me with traffic control measures they mandate in planning applications at new schools and childcare facilities?

Reply: Development proposals for new schools and/or childcare facilities must provide a safe access. Planning applications for this type of development are considered against the relevant standards and requirements as laid out in the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 – 2023 (Chapter 15). The precise standards and requirements shall vary depending on, among other things, the scale of the proposed development, and the classification of the road on to which the development is proposed to be accessed. The Planning Section offers a pre-planning service for prospective applicants to discuss matters such as this.

Cllr N. Keelan asked:

21. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the roll out of affordable housing schemes across the county?

Reply: Monaghan County Council is currently running an Affordable Purchase survey to enable potential applicants register their interest in an Affordable Housing Scheme in Monaghan Town. The Survey is live on Monaghan County Council website, social media platforms and on Daft.ie from 21st June – 5th July 2024.

Subject to interest, the Council proposes to make the newly built homes available in Monaghan Town at a reduced price for first-time and other eligible buyers, who cannot afford to purchase the home at its open market value, with a maximum mortgage and 10% deposit.

22. Given that the N2 Ardee to Castleblayney road scheme is suspended for the foreseeable future, what plans if any have the council in conjunction with the Tii to improve road safety on this very dangerous stretch of roadway, Will the council revisit the proposal to redesign and improve safety at the Tullyvaragh junction?

Reply: Tenders for a Design Consultant to carry out a review of safety issues and possible options along this section of the N2 have been received and are currently being assessed. An appointment will be made within the next 2 weeks. The Tullyvaragh junction will be considered as part of these works.

23. What is the up to date position in relation to the roll out of the reclaimed asphalt scheme which is earmarked for roads in Carrickmacross / Castleblayney area this year 2024?

Reply: The RAP material is now screened in the Derrylavan Depot in Carrickmacross. Drainage works on the RAP Roads are occurring w/c 1st July with the resurfacing of these roads commencing w/c 8th July. All works shall be complete Q3 of 2024.

24. How many low-cost safety schemes were applied for this year 2024, how many were approved, how many were unsuccessful in securing funding, what's the breakdown per MD area, when will the schemes that were approved be completed?

Reply: Monaghan County Council received an allocation of €259,380 for 10 schemes.

- **3 schemes in the Monaghan MD**
- **4 schemes in the Castleblayney/Carrickmacross MD**
- **3 schemes in the in the Ballybay/Clones MD**

It is hoped that these schemes will be completed by Q3 2024.

25. What is the up-to-date position in relation to the roll out of community involvement scheme (CIS) where local residents and road users contribute up to 10% to have their roadway resurfaced?

Reply: Monaghan County Council received an allocation of €354,150. Monaghan County Council have issued 1 Letter of Offer for the LT40431 for 1403m and have priced the L88311 for 200m in Magheraclaone. Current funding is estimated to be sufficient to complete 2 schemes in 2024.

15. Votes of Sympathy/Congratulations

It was agreed that votes of sympathy would be extended to the following:

- Kathleen Treanor, Staff Officer, Corporate Services, on the death of her Mother-in-Law Kathleen Treanor (née McMahon), late of Knockaconny, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan.
- Kim McKenna-Magee, Staff Officer, Procurement Unit, on the death of her Sister Rachel McKenna, late of Enagh, Monaghan Town, Co. Monaghan.
- Caroline Sherry Gallagher, Clerical Officer, Arts Office, on the death of her Mother Kathleen Sherry, late of High Street, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan.
- Veronica Sherry, Clerical Officer, Finance, on the death of her mother-in-law, Kathleen Sherry, late of High Street, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan
- Nicholas Boylan, General Operative, Ballybay-Clones MD, on the death of his sister, Geraldine Armstrong, late of 25 Killyneill, Tyholland, Monaghan, H18 N283.
- Niall Quigley, former Town Councillor, on the death of his sister-in-law Geraldine Armstrong, late of 25 Killyneill, Tyholland, Monaghan, H18 N283.
- Deirdre Kelly, former Town Councillor, on the death of her sister-in-law, Geraldine Armstrong, late of 25 Killyneill, Tyholland, Monaghan, H18 N283.

It was agreed votes of congratulations would be extended to the following:

- James McElearney, Knappagh, Ballybay, County Monaghan, as Chairman of Monaghan Macra na Feirme on the 80th anniversary of Monaghan Macra and to commend all those involved in the organising of the successful celebratory event on held 29 June 2024 in the Hillgrove Hotel.
- Táine King, on the production of the film “The Wilde Sisters” which had been screened at the Garage Theatre on Sunday 07 July and has been selected to be screened at the Galway Film Fleadh.

16. Conferences

On the proposal of Cllr S. Conlon, seconded by Cllr N. Keelan it was agreed that the Council be represented at the following training events by the members listed below:

Promoting Authority	Subject/Theme	Venue	Dates	Members Selected
AILG	AILG Elected Member General Induction Training	Mullingar Park Hotel	11/07/24	Cllr. B. McAree Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. C. Carthy
AILG	Role of the Chief Executive, Executive Functions, Council Meeting Procedures and Standing Orders	Online Training	12/07/24	Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. P. Clerkin Cllr. R. Truell
AILG	AILG Elected Member General Induction Training	Raddison Blu Hotel Cork	13/07/24	

AILG	Local Authority Financing, Funding and Expenditure	Online Training	19/07/24	Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. P. Gibbons Cllr. P. Clerkin
AILG	Elected Members Governance and Oversight Role, Internal and External Audit Committees and National Oversight and Audit Committee	Online Training	26/07/24	Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. S. Conlon Cllr. P. Gibbons Cllr. P. Clerkin
AILG	Local Authority Plans including Corporate Plan, Annual Service Delivery Plan, Development Plan and Climate Action Plan	Online Training	02/08/24	Cllr. P. Treanor Cllr. P. Clerkin

Urgent Business:

Cllr B. McAree proposed, Cllr S. Conlon seconded that this Council writes to the Connections and Developer Services at Uisce Eireann, and also to the Water Finance Section's Developer Provided Infrastructure (DPI) Resolution Unit within the Department Of Housing and Local Government, seeking to immediately resolve the long-standing issue of rural residential area waste water treatment plants including but not exclusive to Oisinvale and OisinBrian, Emyvale County Monaghan for the purpose of enabling the Taking-in-Charge by Monaghan County Council.

Following a short discussion on the motion, the Cathaoirleach put it to the meeting, and it was agreed unanimously.

The Cathaoirleach concluded the meeting.

Signed: _____
Cathaoirleach

Meetings Administrator

Date: _____